

THE HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS

PUFFING A FEATURE OF ALL SOFT FROCKS.



Eight in every ten trimmed gowns made in accordance with the latest decree of fashion show a touch of puffing or shirring somewhere in their composition. The puffing is newest and therefore a bit in the lead, perhaps, but shirring makes a good second.

The shirred hip yoke, for example, is about the only form discovered in the most recent skirts, the flat inserted yoke having practically disappeared. But the quaint puffs are prettier to some ways of thinking, as well as being more characteristic of the styles of the period we are wearing this year.

It would be difficult to even mention half the ways in which this embellishment can be, and is, applied.

It figures in everything that is soft enough to permit of manipulation. (In much that is not sufficiently soft, unfortunately, as well.)

One of its best fields is the lingerie blouse of mull, or similar fabric. On this it is employed in bands of varying width, or to cap a sleeve or as a yoke. "Wherever you can put insertion, you can put puffs this year," said a clever modiste the other day.

Frequently they go together, instead of substituting.

Wee narrow rows of the puffing are alternated with rows of insertion, and entire yokes or hip yokes are formed by this means.

A pretty English frock seen lately had the whole blouse, from collar to about four inches above the waist line, formed by alternated rows of these trimmings.

The upper half of the sleeve was made up in the same way, and a quadruple row of it finished off the bottom of the skirt.

In a smart afternoon gown of champagne tinted voile six-inch-deep rows

of puffs or "bouillonnées" were employed to finish off the full sleeves, coming just below the elbow and above the ruffle.

Two bands of the same encircled the long, full skirt. The edge of the puffing was "pleated" away to the depth of about an inch top and bottom.

Peleries of soft silk are formed entirely of the silk applied vertically, and the puffing is in the form of a deep frill.

The effect is indescribably and delightfully old-fashioned.

In such a wrap the neck, which is collarless and V-shaped, is surrounded by four very narrow rows of puffs applied horizontally; below comes a deep frilling of the silk applied vertically, then four rows of the narrow horizontal bouillonnée; another broad space and so on.

The mantle terminates just below the shoulder line at sides, and in the back

in the front it tapers away into a long scarf drape, or stole, the ends of which are only finished off with puffing.

A three or four-inch band of puffing makes a dainty finish for the neck of a décolleté costume.

Two narrow rows of puffing encircle shoulders and back (about four inches apart) and dipping down slightly over the bust, form a deep V-shape.

The Duke of Devonshire has a historical spot in the gardens of Chatsworth; it is a tiny island said to have been the retreat of Mary Queen of Scots during her incarceration at Chatsworth.

The Shah of Persia has a pet cat, which he designates Tabr Khan; it follows him about everywhere, and anyone found guilty of treating this magnificent Angora with disrespect is severely punished.

The Queen of Siam's jeweled thimble is a valuable curiosity. It is of gold, is shaped like a lotus bud, and the precious stones with which it is studded form the dates of her birth and marriage.

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No Age Limit to Matrimonial Hopes.

Long ago the silly idiom that attached to old-maidship disappeared, but even in the days when popular notion made a spinster of forty a hopeless old maid records show that there was no age limit to matrimonial hopes.

For instance, so long ago as 1774 Miss Jane Hodgson, of Stepney, England, was wedded to Henry Hulton, of the same place. An account of the affair continues:

"The bride, who had once been noted for her beauty, and had, so it is said, refused lovers by the score, had reached her ninety-second summer, and the bridegroom, who had vainly offered her his hand and heart seventy years earlier, was two years older."

More remarkable was the wedding of John Jackson and Annie Bates on March 22, 1796, the 101st birthday of the bridegroom, who was three years older than the bride. It was his fourth marriage within two years, and 10,000 persons escorted the couple to the church.

A youth of nineteen, a son of Mr. Graves, of Balcock-on-Herts, married "Miss Lake, spinster, aged seventy," April 20, 1781, and in August of the same year, at Bath, Captain Hamilton, aged thirty, married Miss Manson, a blushing bride of rank, fortune and eighty-five years.

More than half a century ago a York-

shire belle who had so many suitors she could not choose among them, told one of the most persistent that if he would ask her fifty years later she would marry him. He waited loyally and faithfully for the fiftieth anniversary and she, too, kept her word.

A celebrated French artist who fell in love in his student days, was told by the maiden that she would never marry so long as her mother lived. They waited half a century before they were united.

Only two years ago a wealthy maiden lady in a Midland county provided a delightful sensation by marrying the curate of her parish church, a young man exactly sixty years her junior. An astonishing feature of this marriage was that as a girl the aged bride had been engaged to the curate's grandfather, and perhaps it was the memory of this ancient romance which inspired a sentimental regard for the youthful clergyman, who, under other conditions might have been her own grandson.

Not long ago a maiden lady of over seventy created considerable sensation in the West country by marrying her cashman. She promptly dissipated any idea that it might be a match of sentiment by settling an annuity on her husband on condition that he never come within twenty miles of her house and by letting it be known that she had only married in order to spite her nephews and nieces, with whose conduct she was displeased, and who, through her marriage, would lose the reversion of her estates.

OLD-WORLD ECHOES

The Duchess of Albany is a clever swimmer.

Sarah Grand, the celebrated authoress, is a firm believer in the health-giving results of doing everything by rule and having a time for everything.

Marie Corelli's partiality for private theatricals was formerly manifested in the representation of elderly comic characters, which she preferred to any others.

Several of the wigs worn by the great Duke of Marlborough are preserved as heirlooms in the family, of which the present under secretary for the colonies is the head.

Rudyard Kipling has drawn inspiration for almost everything he has written from the narcotic weed. He has quite an imposing array of pipes, all of which bear traces of hard service.

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THE "ONION CURE."

It is claimed that a bad cold can be broken up by the patient remaining indoors and indulging in a liberal diet of onions. It need not be an exclusive diet, but it must be a liberal one. An onion cure breakfast includes a poached egg on toast, three tablespoons of fried onions, and coffee.

Luncheon of sandwiches made of brown bread buttered and filled with finely-chopped raw onions, seasoned with salt and pepper, makes the second meal on the schedule. For dinner the onions may be fried and eaten with a chop and baked potatoes.

Onion syrup is claimed by some to be unequalled as a cure for a bad cold in the head.

Onion plasters are prescribed to break up hard coughs. They are made of fried onions placed between two pieces of old muslin. The plaster is made quite hot and placed on the chest to stay overnight.

STEVENSON'S FABLE.

There is one fable that touches very near the quick of life: the fable of the monk who passed into the woods, heard a bird break into song, hearkened for a trill or two, and found himself on his return a stranger at his convent gates; for he had been absent fifty years, and of all his comrades there survived but one to recognize him.

All life that is not merely mechanical is spun out of two strands seeking for that bird and hearing him. And it is just this that makes life so hard to value and the delight of each so incommunicable.—R. L. Stevenson.

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SATURDAY IS BARGAIN DAY IN WRAPPERS



Tomorrow we offer you a lawn Wrapper, made of good material, in neat stripes of blue, pink, and lavender; also the black and white, full front, with yoke stylishly trimmed with ruffle and wash braid. The new shaped sleeve, with cuff, excellent width skirt, finished with full deep flounce; sizes 34 to 46. These wrappers never sold for less than \$1.25, our price for Saturday—

95c

75c Petticoat, 49c

A splendid house petticoat, made of good quality striped gingham, cut full width, finished with deep double flounce, others with two small ruffles, gored at the top on a French yoke, with draw string; length 40 to 43. The 75c values Saturday. **49c**

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C. R. Corsets of batiste, low bust, long dip hip, at..... **\$1.00**
The 31 kind, at..... **75c**
Girdles of figured batiste and boned with wire. The 75c ones, Sat. **29c**
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\$1.50 R. & G. Corsets, 79c. Made of French batiste, low bust, short hips; attachments for garters.

Women's \$10.00 Silk Walking Skirts for \$5.00

Being that there are but six left, we hurry them out at half. They are of Black Taffeta Silk, eleven gores, each gore side-pleated, with foot pleats at bottom. This is a remarkable opportunity for fine walking skirts at a little price.

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THE HANDBAG BEAUTIFUL

The new handbags and card cases show even more extravagance and beauty than their immediate predecessors. They are the costliest affairs in their respective lines ever turned out.

The handbags are large and have long, straight metal tops, with most of the ornamentation upon the tops instead of the sides. They open by pressure on the top, or with a clasp, and instead of a metal chain or round leather handle are fitted up with an exceedingly stylish looking leather strap, no wider than a finger, and very thin. This strap is knotted in a single loop at the top, merely for purposes of individuality, as the loop gives quite an air of cache to the strap. These straps are in the same tints as the leather of which the bag is made, and when silk is employed the strap is of the color that prevails in the silk.

The bags of thin, dressed leather, in dainty colors, are pleated the whole way along the top in full pleats. This gives quite an air of distinction to the bag and makes a pleated fullness at the side, with rounded corners at the bottom.

Silk bags are treated in the same manner. Favorite silks are large figured pompadours, in which pink prevails as a decoration, and there is some soft, quiet tint as a background. The straps are of the color of the background.

Handsome brocaded stripes of flowers, or large, spreading flowers, or hand-painted effects, are made up into the large bags, and smaller figures in deeper tints into small ones. As yet, beaded and embroidered effects have not appeared in these new bags.

A variation in new bag styles is a long, rather narrow flat bag, made like several open envelopes laid together and fastened only at the bottom. The center compartment has a slender metal rim and clasp. In these compartments a woman tucks her handkerchiefs, cha-mois powder rag, and any other flat things that she wants to carry about, as well as her cards and bills. A handle holds these together.

In a much smaller shape, and of heavy leather, are purses that have compartments on each side of the clasped purse for holding cards, bills and the handkerchief. The sides come up two or more inches above the top of the purse in a curve that has a curved slit in it for the hand. This double handle arrangement holds the sides of the purse close together.

All purses and bags, except these small ones, are made to match in general color scheme the color of the frock with which the bag is carried; so that brocaded and Japanese embossed leather bags are especially popular because the mingling of color in them enables them to be carried with several different costumes.

Observations of Peggy

It seems to me that everyone who has a house or a little apartment which she calls home, is house-cleaning just now, for the wagon of the carpet cleaner piles a merry business, and the bit-buff of the beating of rugs awakens one brave and early each morning; windows are thrown open to admit all the air possible, and also to allow dust to fly into the street; and houses in general smell of soap and furniture polish.

Of course, all this is necessary, even though many men consider themselves martyrs in consequence; but I believe I have already made a proclamation on the necessity of taking housecleaning seriously, and doing one room each day, so that nerves may not be wracked, nor tempers lost in the process.

I shall say no more, therefore, about that, but now that the actual shake-up is in progress, I would like to speak of another incidental.

It is said the best way to cure the blues (of course I am speaking to women) is to put on all one's best clothes and go out for a walk.

Now the best way to give a fresh and new air to the home is to change around the furniture, so that the house may not have the blue and try the things in different positions, so that the best effect may be gained.

Some rooms may need papering and painting, and the new color effect will doubtless necessitate certain changes in the positions of the various articles of

furniture, but the rooms which were done over last year may be given a different appearance by changing their entire arrangement.

Time leaves its marks on furniture as on people, and at the annual spring upheaval several little articles will need renewal; certain ornaments which have been in the family for some years, which possess no particular beauty, have outlived their usefulness, and may be discarded without qualms of conscience.

Study to create simple effects this spring. Go into each room as if you were a stranger and think out its possibilities. Then make the best of them with the materials at hand.

In the parlor, drawing room or living room—by whatever title you call the room wherein you talk with your friends—stand in the doorway and study the arrangement of the whole. If the chairs are not arranged with due regard to facilitating conversation between three or four people without lifting or rolling the chairs about, then arrange them sociably.

Arrange a couch in the living room with its head near a window for reading in the daytime, if such is indulged in, and with a little table at its head, whereon is a lamp, for convenience when daylight fades into night.

If there are no plants in the living or dining room add a few and be cheered thereby.

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